

Mansfield Library Advisory Board Meeting
August 18, 2011
7 PM Mansfield Public Library
Program Room

Present: E. Bar-Shalom, E.Chibeu, S.Q.Clark presiding, J. Greene, H. Hand, M. Hart, ex officio, B. Katz, R. Pollack, recording, C. Rees, D. Truman

Visitors: 4

The meeting was called to order 7:05 PM

Public comments: C. Kuffner supported the concept of a shared Library Director. It would save money, and it could even be better than what we have. C. Schaeffer said a number of places have shared some services and buildings.

Communications: None read aloud but it was noted that several articles and letters to the Editor were published since the last meeting on August 10.

Minutes of the August 10, 2011 meeting were approved with two corrections:

Discussion: The Concept of having School Libraries and The Public Library under one Director

M. Hart had meeting with the three professional librarians. Concerns stated were: Increase professional staff, be open more evenings, materials budget, increase programming, and increase visibility of the Library. They saw responsibilities of the Director as budget, staff supervision, and manage collection, leading role in programming, work with the public.

Advisory Board Concerns

Is there time to get things in place, why did Town Manager wait so long to present concept, how can one person handle all the locations and supervise staff, will it really save money if others have to be hired, why not regionalization with other town libraries, what portion of the shared director's salary would the Library be responsible. It was noted that there was no support for shared directors from other Librarians and Professors of Library Science. They cited the different roles of school and public libraries. J. Greene said it is tempting to want to save money but he is not sure what to do. He sees both sides.

The Board voted 7-2 to postpone recommendations, after it first voted 5-4 to proceed, so that there would be more time to study locations where this has been tried. C. Schaefer, a member of the Town Council, said he had that material. It will be made available for study by Aug. 29.

Meeting adjourned 8 20PM.

Respectfully submitted
Rita Pollack

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